

# Metropolitan Mirror & Glass, Inc.

**EPA Region 3**

Pennsylvania

Schuylkill County

Frackville

**EPA ID#** PAD982366957

**17th** Congressional District

**Last Update:** August  
2002

**Other Names:** None

## Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declared that the Metropolitan Mirror and Glass Co. hazardous waste site poses no threat to the public health of the nearby residents or the environment. After construction was completed at the site and site studies were done, the EPA issued a formal decision in 1998, known as a record of decision, saying that no further work is necessary at the site.

## Site Description

The Metropolitan Mirror and Glass Co., Inc. site is eight acres in size and located in an industrial area. Metropolitan Mirror manufactured mirrors from 1959 until 1982, when it declared bankruptcy. The site was acquired by the National Patent Development Corp. and then resold in 1987 to St. Jude Polymer Co., which recycles plastic bottles. Current site activities do not involve the disposal of wastes. During its manufacturing operations, Metropolitan Mirror used silver solutions, paint strippers, paint thinners, and other solvents. Wastes resulting

from these operations were disposed of in four on-site settling lagoons. The first pair of these lagoons was used before 1967; the second, between 1967 and 1982. Contaminants were first discovered in 1986 in ground water used by Frackville as a drinking water source. A subsequent investigation conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PADER) identified Metropolitan Mirror as a possible source of contamination. PADER was unable to confirm this finding. Public and private wells within four miles of the site provide drinking water to an estimated 1,000 people. The nearest of these wells is less than one mile from the site. Close to 3,800 people live within a mile of the site.

### **Site Responsibility**


Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments.

### **NPL Listing History**

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List (NPL). This site was proposed to the NPL on February 7, 1992 and formally added to the list on October 14, 1992.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Contaminants detected in the lagoon areas and the soils of a drum storage area include aluminum, heavy metals such as silver and lead, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are chemical components of solvents. Site conditions, such as unlined disposal areas, shallow groundwater, and absorbent soil made it easy for contaminants to reach the groundwater. The workers of the St. Jude Polymer Co. were at risk of being exposed to contaminants in the soil of the drum storage area.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## **Cleanup Progress**

EPA studied the contamination and explored cleanup options during 1995 to 1996. EPA cleaned up the existing lagoons, by draining, excavation and backfilling them with clean soil. The contaminated soil in the drum storage area was also excavated. These measures were completed in September 1997. Site studies have shown that these measures were adequate, and the EPA will take no further action to clean up the site. It has been determined that the contaminants in groundwater and sediment are not site related.

## Contacts

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Detailed information about this site and EPA's actions and decisions regarding it is available at the following locations:

West Mahoning Township Building  
190 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Shenandoah, PA 17976  
717-462-2958

USEPA Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
215-814-3157

Please call for an appointment.